FERMILAB-PUB-16-071-E

B_s^0 lifetime measurement in the CP-odd decay channel $B_s^0 \to J/\psi\ f_0(980)$

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(Dated: March 3, 2016)

The lifetime of the B_s^0 meson is measured in the decay channel $B_s^0 \to J/\psi\ \pi^+\pi^-$ with $880 \leq M_{\pi^+\pi^-} \leq 1080$ MeV/c^2, which is mainly a CP-odd state and dominated by the $f_0(980)$ resonance. In 10.4 fb^{-1} of data collected with the D0 detector in Run II of the Tevatron, the lifetime of the B_s^0 meson is measured to be $\tau(B_s^0) = 1.70 \pm 0.14$ (stat) ± 0.05 (syst) ps. Neglecting CP violation in $B_s^0/\bar{B}_s^0$ mixing, the measurement can be translated into the width of the heavy mass eigenstate of the B_s^0, $\Gamma_H = 0.59 \pm 0.05$ (stat) ± 0.02 (syst) ps^{-1}.

PACS numbers: 14.40.Nd, 13.25.Hw

The B_s^0 and $\bar{B}_s^0$ mesons are produced as flavor eigenstates at hadron colliders, but the particles propagate as mass eigenstates. There are two mass eigenstates, the so-called heavy and light states, which are linear combinations of the flavor eigenstates. In the absence of CP-violation in mixing, the mass eigenstates are also CP eigenstates, with the heavier state expected to be the CP-odd state. The lifetimes of the two mass eigenstates can be different from each other and different from the average B_s^0 lifetime. A measurement of the B_s^0 lifetime in either a pure CP-odd state or pure CP-even state would give important additional information about the B_s^0 system.

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The $B_s^0 \to J/\psi f_0(980)$ decay channel corresponds to a pure CP-odd eigenstate decay due to angular momentum conservation, since the parent B_s^0 is spin 0, the $f_0(980)$ has $J^{PC} = 0^{++}$, and the J/ψ has $J^{PC} = 1^{--}$. Throughout this Letter, the appearance of a specific charge state also implies its charge conjugate. This decay channel was first observed by the LHCb collaboration [1], and later confirmed by the Belle [2], CDF [3] and D0 [4] collaborations. A measurement of the B_s^0 lifetime in this channel gives access to the lifetime of the heavy mass eigenstate. The lifetime measurement can be transformed into a measurement of the parameter Γ_H, the decay width of the heavy B_s^0 mass eigenstate. CDF [3] and LHCb [5] have measured this lifetime, reporting $\tau(B_s^0) = (1.70 \pm 0.12 \pm 0.03)$ ps and $\tau(B_s^0) = (1.70 \pm 0.04 \pm 0.026)$ ps respectively, which are in good agreement with each other and somewhat longer than the mean lifetime $\tau(B_s^0) = (1.52 \pm 0.007)$ ps [6].

In this analysis, we report the lifetime of the B_s^0 meson measured in the decay channel $B_s^0 \to J/\psi(\to \mu^+\mu-)\pi^+\pi^-$ with $880 \leq M_{\pi^+\pi^-} \leq 1080$ MeV/c^2, which is dominated by the $f_0(980)$ resonance and which is CP-odd at the 99% level [7, 8]. The data used in this analysis were collected with the D0 detector during Run II of the Tevatron collider at a center-of-mass energy of 1.96 TeV, and correspond to an integrated luminosity of 10.4 fb^{-1}.

The D0 detector is described in detail elsewhere [9]. The detector components most relevant to this analysis are the central tracking and the muon systems. The former consists of a silicon microstrip tracker (SMT) and a central scintillating fiber tracker (CFT) surrounded by a 2 T superconducting solenoidal magnet. The SMT has a design optimized for tracking and vertexing for pseudorapidity of $|\eta| < 3$ [10]. For charged particles, the resolution on the distance of closest approach as provided by the tracking system is approximately 50 μm for tracks with $p_T \approx 1$ GeV/c, where p_T is the component of the momentum perpendicular to the beam axis. It improves asymptotically to 15 μm for tracks with $p_T > 10$ GeV/c. Preshower detectors and electromagnetic and hadronic calorimeters surround the tracker. The muon system is located outside the calorimeter, and consists of multilayer drift chambers and scintillation counters inside 1.8 T iron toroidal magnets, and two similar layers outside the toroids. Muon identification and tracking for $|\eta| < 1$ relies on 10 cm wide drift tubes, while 1 cm minidrift tubes are used for $1 < |\eta| < 2$. We base our data selection on reconstructed charged tracks and identified muons. Events used in this analysis are collected with both single muon and dimuon triggers. To avoid a trigger bias in the lifetime measurement, we reject events that satisfy only impact parameter-based triggers.

The B_s^0 reconstruction begins by reconstructing J/ψ candidates followed by searching for $\pi^+\pi^-$ candidates. To reconstruct $J/\psi \to \mu^+\mu^-$ candidates, events with at least two muons of opposite charge reconstructed in the tracker and the muon system are selected. For at least one of the muons, hits are required in the muon system both inside and outside of the toroids. Both muons must have hits in the SMT and have p_T >2.5 GeV/c. The muon tracks are constrained to originate from a common vertex with a χ^2 probability greater than 1%. Each J/ψ candidate is required to have a p_T greater than 1.5 GeV/c and a mass in the range 2.80–3.35 GeV/c^2.

We require two oppositely charged tracks, assumed to have the pion mass, each with at least two SMT hits and at least two CFT hits, and at least eight total hits in the tracking system. These two tracks are constrained to a common vertex with a χ^2 probability greater than 1%. Each $\pi^+\pi^-$ candidate is required to have a mass in the range $880 \leq M_{\pi^+\pi^-} \leq 1080$ MeV/c^2 and a p_T greater than 1.5 GeV/c. The B_s^0 candidates are reconstructed by performing a constrained fit to a common vertex for the two pions and the two muon tracks, with the latter constrained to the J/ψ mass of 3.097 GeV/c^2 [6]. The B_s^0 candidates are required to have a mass within the range 5.1–5.8 GeV/c^2, and to have a p_T greater than 6.0 GeV/c.

To determine the decay time of the B_s^0, the distance traveled by the candidate projected in a plane transverse to the beam direction is measured, and then a correction for the Lorentz boost is applied. The transverse decay length is defined as $L_{xy} = \boldsymbol{L}_{xy} \cdot \boldsymbol{p}_T / p_T$, where $\boldsymbol{L}_{xy}$ is the vector that points from the primary vertex [11] to the B_s^0 decay vertex, and $\boldsymbol{p}_T$ is the transverse momentum vector of the B_s^0 candidate. The event-by-event value of the proper transverse decay length, λ, for the B_s^0 candidate is given by:

$$\lambda = L_{xy} \frac{cM_B}{p_T}, \tag{1}$$

where M_B is the world average mass value of the B_s^0 meson [6]. In order to remove background, B_s^0 candidates are required to have $\lambda > 0.02$ cm and uncertainties on λ of less than 0.01 cm.

A simultaneous unbinned maximum likelihood fit to the mass and proper decay length distributions is performed to measure the lifetime. The likelihood function $\mathcal{L}$ is defined by:

$$\mathcal{L} = \prod_{j=1}^{N} \left[N_{\rm sig}\mathcal{F}^j_{\rm sig} + N_{\rm comb}\mathcal{F}^j_{\rm comb} + N_{\rm xf}\mathcal{F}^j_{\rm xf} + N_{B^+}\mathcal{F}^j_{B^+} \right], \tag{2}$$

where N is the total number of events and $N_{\rm sig}$, $N_{\rm comb}$, $N_{\rm xf}$ and N_{B^+} are the expected number of signal, combinatorial background, cross-feed contamination and $B^\pm \to J/\psi K^\pm$ events in the sample, respectively. All these parameters are determined in the fit. The different background contributions are discussed below.

The functions $\mathcal{F}$ are the product of three probability density functions that model distributions of the mass m, the proper transverse decay length λ, and the uncertainty on the proper decay length σ_λ for the signal, combinatorial background, cross-feed contamination, and $B^\pm$ events

$$\mathcal{F}^j_\alpha = M_\alpha(m_j) T_\alpha(\lambda_j|\sigma_{\lambda_j}) E_\alpha(\sigma_{\lambda_j}); \qquad \alpha = \{\text{sig, comb, xf, } B^+\}, \tag{3}$$

where m_j, λ_j, and σ_{λ_j} represent the mass, the transverse proper decay length, and its uncertainty, respectively, for a given event j. The use of the probability density functions T and E follows the method of reference [12]. The specific models and parameters used in the fit are described below.

For the signal, the mass distribution is modeled by a Gaussian function , $M_{\rm sig}(m_j) = G(m_j; \mu_m, \sigma_m)$, where

$$G(m_j; \mu_m, \sigma_m) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_m} e^{-(m_j-\mu_m)^2/(2\sigma_m^2)}, \tag{4}$$

with μ_m and σ_m the mean and the width of the Gaussian, determined from the fit.

The combinatorial background is primarily due to random combinations of J/ψ's with additional tracks in the event, and its mass distribution is described by an exponential function

$$M_{\rm comb}(m_j; a_0) = e^{a_0 m_j}, \tag{5}$$

with a_0 determined from the likelihood fit.

The physics cross-feed contamination is mainly produced by the combination of J/ψ mesons from b hadron decays with other particles produced in the collision, including from the same b hadron. Other b hadron decays with final states such as $B^0 \to J/\psi K\pi$, $B^0 \to J/\psi\pi\pi$ and $B^0_s \to J/\psi KK$ are reconstructed at mass below the signal of the B^0_s, either due to the lower mass of the B^0 or the incorrect mass assignment of the pion mass to a kaon track. Simulations of these decays show that the cross-feed contamination can be described by a single Gaussian component

$$M_{\rm xf}(m_j) = G(m_j; \mu_{\rm xf}, \sigma_{\rm xf}), \qquad (6)$$

where $\mu_{\rm xf}$ and $\sigma_{\rm xf}$ are the mean and the width of the Gaussian, determined from the likelihood fit.

The final contribution arises from $B^\pm \to J/\psi K^\pm$ decays in which the kaon has been assigned a pion mass, and an additional track accidentally forms a vertex with the $J/\psi K^\pm$. The candidate mass is reconstructed in the region of real B^0_s events. If the higher p_T non-muon track in B^0_s candidates is assigned a kaon mass, a clear $B^\pm$ signal emerges. Events in this $B^\pm$ mass peak, when interpreted as $J/\psi\pi\pi$, are used as a template [13] to determine the shape of the mass distribution of the $B^\pm \to J/\psi K^\pm$ contamination in the B^0_s candidates.

The λ distribution for the signal is parameterized by an exponential decay convoluted with a resolution function

$$T_{\rm sig}(\lambda_j|\sigma_{\lambda_j}) = \frac{1}{\lambda_B}\int_0^\infty G(x; \lambda_j, \sigma_{\lambda_j}) \exp\left(\frac{-x}{\lambda_B}\right) dx, \quad (7)$$

with $\lambda_B = c\tau$ of the B^0_s to be measured. The λ distribution for the background components is parametrized by the sum of two exponential decay functions modeling combinatorial background $T_{\rm comb}(\lambda_j)$, an exponential decay for the cross-feed contamination $T_{\rm xf}(\lambda_j)$, and an exponential decay function that describes $T_{B^+}(\lambda_j)$ for $B^\pm$ contamination.

The distribution of the λ uncertainty $E_{\rm sig}(\sigma_{\lambda_j})$ is described by a phenomenological model, using an exponential with decay constant $1/\zeta$, convoluted with a Gaussian with mean ϵ and width δ:

$$E_{\rm sig}(\sigma_{\lambda_j}; \zeta, \epsilon, \delta) = \frac{1}{\zeta} e^{-\sigma_{\lambda_j}/\zeta} \otimes G(\sigma_{\lambda_j}; \epsilon, \delta), \qquad (8)$$

where the parameters ζ, ϵ and width δ are determined from the fit in the sample of events. The uncertainties in λ for the background components are treated in the same manner.

The fit yields $c\tau(B^0_s) = 504 \pm 42$ μm and the numbers of signal decays to be 494 ± 85. Figure 1 shows the mass and λ distributions for data with the fit results superimposed. Figure 2 shows the $M(\pi^+\pi^-)$ mass distribution for events with $M(\mu^+\mu^-\pi^+\pi^-)$ within one σ of the B^0_s mass. The $M(\pi^+\pi^-)$ distribution is fit with a Flatté function [14–16] and a polynomial background.

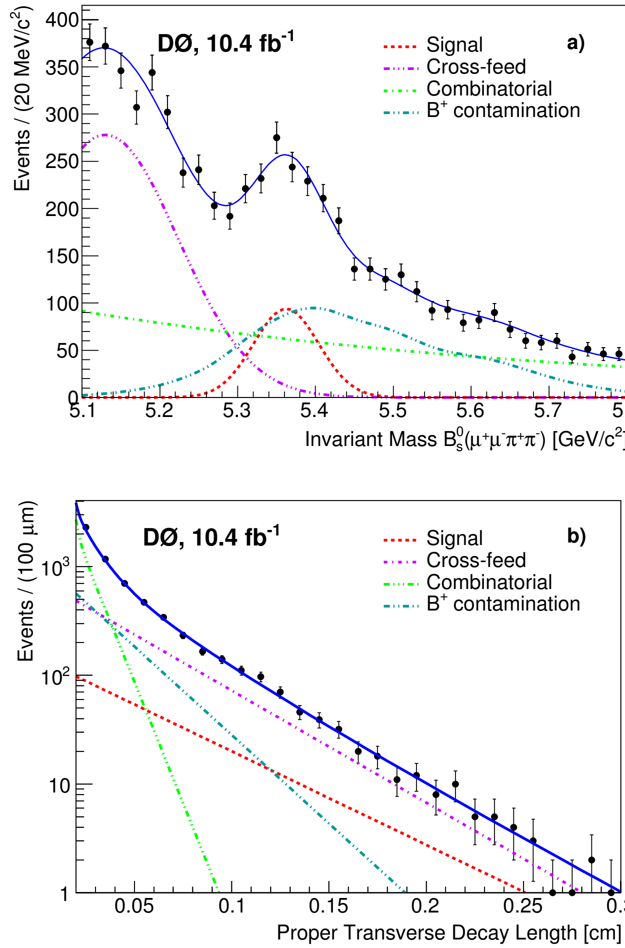

FIG. 1: Invariant mass (a) and proper decay length (b) distributions for B^0_s candidates, with the fit results superimposed. Each of the different background components is indicated in the figure. The fit yields $c\tau(B^0_s) = 504 \pm 42$ μm.

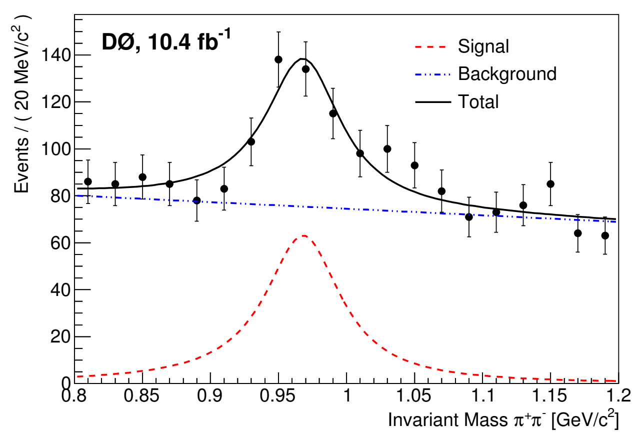

FIG. 2: $M(\pi^+\pi^-)$ distribution for events with $M(\mu^+\mu^-\pi^+\pi^-)$ within $\pm 1\sigma$ of the B^0_s mass.

TABLE I: Summary of systematic uncertainties in the B_s^0 lifetime measurement. The total uncertainty is determined by combining individual uncertainties in quadrature.

Source	Variation (μm)
Alignment	5.4
$\pi^+\pi^-$ invariant mass window	8.0
Fit bias	4.4
Distribution models	12.5
Total	16.4

Table I summarizes the systematic uncertainties considered for this measurement. The contribution from possible misalignment of the SMT detector has been previously determined to be 5.4 μm [17]. The invariant mass window used for the $\pi^+\pi^-$ distribution is varied from its nominal value of 200 MeV/c^2 to 160 and 240 MeV/c^2 and the fit is performed for each new mass window selection. This results in a systematic uncertainty of 8 μm. We test the modeling and fitting method used to estimate the lifetime using data generated in pseudoexperiments with a range of lifetimes from 300 to 800 μm. The bias is approximately constant over this range with a value of -4.4 μm for an input lifetime of 500 μm. This value is assigned as a systematic uncertainty and the nominal measurement is corrected by this value. We estimate the systematic uncertainty due to the models for the λ and mass distributions by varying the parameterizations of the different components: (i) the cross-feed contamination is modeled by two Gaussian functions instead of one, (ii) the exponential mass distribution for the combinatorial background model is replaced by a first order polynomial, (iii) the smoothing of the non-parametric function that models the $B^\pm$ contamination is varied, and (iv) the exponential functions modelling the background λ distributions are smeared with a Gaussian resolution similar to the signal. To take into account correlations between the effects of the different models, a fit that combines all different model changes is performed. We quote the difference between the result of this fit and the nominal fit as the systematic uncertainty.

Several cross-checks of the lifetime measurement are performed. The mass windows are varied, the reconstructed B_s^0 mass is used instead of the world average [6] value, and the data sample is split into different regions of pseudorapidity and of azimuthal angle. All results obtained with these variations are consistent with the nominal measurement.

In summary, the lifetime of the B_s^0 is measured to be:

$$c\tau(B_s^0) = 508 \pm 42 \text{ (stat)} \pm 16 \text{ (syst) } \mu\text{m}, \qquad (9)$$

from which we determine:

$$\tau(B_s^0) = 1.70 \pm 0.14 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.05 \text{ (syst) ps}, \qquad (10)$$

in the decay channel $B_s^0 \rightarrow J/\psi\pi^+\pi^-$ with $880 \leq M_{\pi^+\pi^-} \leq 1080$ MeV/c^2. In the absence of CP violation in mixing, this measurement can be translated into the width of the heavy mass eigenstate of the B_s^0:

$$\Gamma_H = 0.59 \pm 0.05 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.02 \text{ (syst) ps}^{-1}. \qquad (11)$$

This result is in good agreement with previous measurements and provides an independent confirmation of the longer lifetime for the CP-odd eigenstate of the $B_s^0/\bar{B}_s^0$ system.

We thank the staffs at Fermilab and collaborating institutions, and acknowledge support from the Department of Energy and National Science Foundation (United States of America); Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission and National Center for Scientific Research/National Institute of Nuclear and Particle Physics (France); Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, National Research Center “Kurchatov Institute” of the Russian Federation, and Russian Foundation for Basic Research (Russia); National Council for the Development of Science and Technology and Carlos Chagas Filho Foundation for the Support of Research in the State of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil); Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Science and Technology (India); Administrative Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (Colombia); National Council of Science and Technology (Mexico); National Research Foundation of Korea (Korea); Foundation for Fundamental Research on Matter (The Netherlands); Science and Technology Facilities Council and The Royal Society (United Kingdom); Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (Czech Republic); Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (Federal Ministry of Education and Research) and Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation) (Germany); Science Foundation Ireland (Ireland); Swedish Research Council (Sweden); China Academy of Sciences and National Natural Science Foundation of China (China); and Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (Ukraine).

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